

you're invited to the upcoming Scoping Meeting



Update

Winter 2001

Tuesday

February 20, 2001

6:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Skyline High School

1122-228th Ave. SE

Sammamish

King County along with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) invite you to the East Lake Sammamish Trail Master Plan joint NEPA/SEPA Scoping meeting to be held on February 20, 2001. The SEPA Master Plan EIS Scoping meeting was held in November 2000 and identified three trail alignment alternatives, in addition to the required "No Action" alternative. The upcoming NEPA/SEPA Scoping meeting will provide an opportunity for citizens to review the refinements made to the proposed trail

alignment alternatives. Participants will also have the chance to submit their oral or written comment.

Implementation of the Master Plan for the East Lake Sammamish Trail will utilize federal funds administered by the Surface Transportation Board and the Federal Highway Administration. In addition to review that is occurring for this project under SEPA, such federal funding has triggered the need for further review under NEPA, therefore a joint NEPA/SEPA EIS will be prepared by King County, FHWA and WSDOT.

Master planning well underway

Master planning for the East Lake Sammamish Trail is well underway and continues to build on citizen comment gathered at neighborhood workshops, user group meetings, and public hearings. Using evaluation tools supplied by both the National and State Environmental Policy Acts (NEPA and SEPA), alternative alignments and amenities will be studied prior to developing a master plan proposal. This integrated process provides the greatest opportunity for the consideration of ideas offered by neighbors and future trail users.

A combined NEPA/SEPA Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared, analyzing three alternatives. The alternatives, as well as issues and concerns to be included in the EIS document, are determined through a public scoping process. The scoping process began in November 2000, with a SEPA scoping meeting where King County presented three potential trail alignment alternatives for permanent trail use along with the required "No Action" alternative. Nearly 80 neighbors and citizens attended and over 150 people submitted their comments. Participants responded to a variety of topics including the natural environment, trail user safety, property owner safety and security, noise, trail aesthetics, recreation, public facilities and trail amenities, parking, right-of-way issues, and equestrian use of the trail. A NEPA scoping meeting, hosted by King County, Washington State Department

Master Plan Schedule

February 2001

NEPA/SEPA Scoping Meeting

June 2001

Release of NEPA/SEPA DEIS

July 2001

Public hearing for the DEIS

November/December 2001

Release of FEIS and Executive proposed Master Plan

County Council reviews proposed Master Plan

trail master plan

www.metrokc.gov/dcfm/elst.htm

East Lake Sammamish Trail Master Plan
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King County
Department of Construction and Facilities Management

Master Plan underway...

of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration will be held February 20, 2001, providing the opportunity for citizens to review the refinements made to alternatives since November. Citizens will see the three alternatives more fully developed, as well as additional information on equestrian facilities, public art, and trolley considerations. The Draft EIS (DEIS) will evaluate all three alternatives.

After the publication of the Draft EIS, preliminarily scheduled for release in the summer of 2001, additional opportunity for public comment will be offered. Written and oral comments provided in response to the DEIS will be responded to in the Final Master Plan EIS (FEIS). The FEIS will include a preferred alternative that will form the basis of the final master plan. After the FEIS and trail Master Plan are completed, they will be forwarded by the King County Executive to the Metropolitan King County Council for review and approval.

Interim Trail takes shape

On December 15, 2000, the Metropolitan King County Council gave County Executive Ron Sims the green light to implement his recommended East Lake Sammamish Trail Interim Use & Resource Protection Plan. The Executive's Interim Plan calls for development of a soft surface trail along the 10.8 miles of former railbed for use while a Master Plan is completed, adopted and implemented. The Interim Use & Protection Plan also includes measures to protect sensitive areas such as wetlands and streams.

Spirits were high in the King County Council Chambers after the 13 to zero vote in favor of the Interim Plan. The legislative review process, which spanned four months, included a briefing by Executive staff, a panel discussion by technical and professional experts, a public hearing, and two public discussions with elected officials from the cities of Redmond, Sammamish, and Issaquah. The adopted legislation directed the Executive to negotiate interlocal agreements with the cities of Redmond, Sammamish and Issaquah in order to address concerns about safety, security, public parking, trail design, public facilities and public access to the trail.

The project team is proceeding with permit applications in order to prepare the corridor for public use. The trail corridor will be developed by adding gravel, bollards, signs, fencing, and access points. The goal of opening the Interim Trail for public use by the end of 2001 is still in sight.

Citizens' Advisory Group welcomes new members

In 1999, King County assembled a Citizens' Advisory Group (CAG) to assist with the planning and public participation process for the East Lake Sammamish Trail project. A thirteen-member group was selected, representing community and regional interests and property owners along the lake.

CAG meetings are typically held prior to and after public meetings and project milestones to ensure that the ongoing dialogue between King County and the community is effective and productive. In addition to their regularly scheduled meetings, CAG members attend public workshops and hearings. Prior to the completion of Phase II and adoption of the Master Plan, the CAG will submit their recommendations to the King County Executive and the Metropolitan King County Council.

Sammamish residents Janey Whitt and Mike

Rundle have recently been selected to fill membership vacancies on the CAG. Using a format and criteria developed with concurrence from the CAG, applicants were solicited through the project mailing list, press releases and the project web page. Mike Rundle is an adjacent property owner who has been actively involved in the trail planning process. Janey Whitt lives along the "bypass" route and has participated in all aspects of the public process. Janey and Mike were welcomed at the December 2000 CAG meeting by CAG members Bente Pasko, Jim Creevey, Peggy Reddy, Bruce Beaulaurier, Ernie Grillo, and Jay Creech of Sammamish; Dennis Madsen of Mercer Island; Don Potter of Bellevue; Jay Willenburg of Issaquah; Jeremy Zucker of Seattle; and Barbara Justice of unincorporated King County.

CAG meetings are held in public meeting spaces and are open to all interested citizens. CAG members typically meet on the third Tuesday of the month, although the schedule occasionally varies. Watch for notices in the calendar section of your local newspaper and on the project web page www.metrokc.gov/dcfm/elst/htm.

contacts

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